

HONORING BRADFORD LOVE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bradford Love of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Bradford is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bradford has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bradford has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bradford Love for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**CYPRUS****HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2008*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, a new sense of optimism has emerged in the international community regarding Cyprus. Since the February 2008 election of Demetris Christofias as Greek Cypriot President, the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities have met three times and have agreed to work toward a new federal partnership.

The most recent meeting between the leaders of the Turkish and Greek Cypriots was held on July 1, 2008. As stated in the Joint Declaration, they decided to meet again on July 25 to review the final reports of the working groups and technical committees and also to announce the commencement of full-fledged negotiations.

On April 24, 2000, after years of negotiations, both communities held separate votes on the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan (Annan Plan). Turkish Cypriots approved the plan by 65 percent, while Greek Cypriots rejected it by 76 percent. Ironically, Greek Cypriots became members of the European Union, and Turkish Cypriots remained subject to political and economic isolation.

Hopefully, the process can move forward. The international community should encourage the sides to reach a comprehensive and just solution which will bring peace and stability not only on the island but also to the region as a whole.

As co-chair of the Turkey Caucus, I should inform my colleagues that Turkey continues to support Turkish Cypriot Leader Mehmet Ali Talat in his quest for a solution. Turkey will continue to support the process in good faith and encourages all sides to find an overdue solution to the Cyprus question.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
HEMATOLOGY**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2008*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the American Society of Hematology (ASH) on its 50th anniversary. I also want to thank hematologists for their significant contributions to the research, treatment, and advocacy of sickle cell disease and other blood and bone marrow disorders.

Sickle Cell disease affects between 50,000 and 100,000 individuals in this country. In addition, almost 2,000 babies are born with sickle cell disease each year. While researchers make progress with treatments, patients continue to suffer from debilitating pain, frequent infections, anemia, and vision problems. Sickle cell disease also can lead to serious complications such as blood clots, organ failure, and strokes.

Undoubtedly, hematologists have helped lead the way in the development of new therapies and treatments for sickle cell disease. As a result of their work and advocacy, today's neonatal screening program has improved the overall health and survival of patients. In 1998, transcranial screening allowed doctors to identify sickle cell patients at risk for stroke and treat them with blood transfusions. Hematologists also have been responsible for pioneering the use of hydroxyurea in the successful treatment of the disease.

Moreover, ASH has been a leader in sickle cell advocacy by seeking additional funding for the Federal Government's sickle cell programs as well as helping Federal agencies identify major scientific opportunities in basic and clinical research of the disease. ASH was one of the leading organizations working with Congress on legislation to create the Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Demonstration Program—a federally funded program designed to improve and expand patient and provider education and the continuity and coordination of care for individuals with the disease. In fact, ASH worked diligently with congressional leaders to fund this program through August, 2010.

I look forward to continuing to work with ASH and its members to pursue the common goal of expanding research and providing excellent care for patients with sickle cell disease.

**80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
OKEECHOBEE HURRICANE****HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution memorializing the 80th anniversary of the Okeechobee Hurricane and the tragic losses of life from the catastrophic event. The experience of the Okeechobee Hurricane touches the lives of so many of my constituents and those throughout the Florida delegation, as well as my colleagues representing territories throughout the Caribbean.

This September marks 80 years since the Okeechobee Hurricane, also known as Hurricane San Felipe Segundo, ravaged Florida, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, and numerous islands of the Caribbean. At this point in 1928, a number of factors contributed to this hurricane having the second largest death toll in United States history ever recorded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Tragically, over 4,000 lives were lost along the path of the Okeechobee Hurricane.

Madam Speaker, Floridians living near Lake Okeechobee in communities that I now represent experienced a devastating loss of life when the hurricane led to extensive breaches of the levees surrounding the lake. Of the more than 3,000 casualties in the continental United States, more than 75 percent were migrant workers near Lake Okeechobee who were overwhelmingly African American. The lack of capacity to respond to the devastation of the storm and racial overtures of the era led to extensive disparities in the treatment of victims of this hurricane. Many African Americans were buried in poorly marked mass graves, including one site in West Palm Beach where over 670 unfortunate souls were laid to rest. Similar graves for white victims of the tragedy were visibly memorialized, whereas many African American graves were forgotten and only recognized many years later. When considering the development of a community, neglecting these darker moments of our history can overlook important lessons, as we saw with the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Beyond recognition for all victims of the Okeechobee Hurricane tragedy, their loss should inform us how to prevent future injustices in disaster response and mitigation.

The potential for devastation due to failing infrastructure following similar natural disasters exists in many places throughout our nation. Thus, it is absolutely vital that we learn from the past and invest in strengthening our vulnerable water management infrastructure to prevent future tragic losses. We must also prioritize initiatives to educate migrant workers, economically disadvantaged communities, and others who may be disproportionately impacted by hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me memorializing the tragic loss of the Okeechobee Hurricane and reaffirming our commitment to protecting all inhabitants of the United States from the devastation of hurricanes. This resolution is the first step to encouraging our respective localities to prioritize natural disaster preparedness and education economically disadvantaged communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward its expeditious passage.

BARBARA ELOISE EARNEST

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a distinguished member of the Colton community and a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, Barbara "Bobbie" Eloise Earnest.

Bobbie was born in Indio, California on January 30, 1930. After moving as a child, she